

Message Text

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15

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 NSCE-00 CU-04 CAB-09 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 PM-07

H-02 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01

/101 W

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R 250830 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4790

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRN JA CH

SUBJ: MOT VICE MINISTER REPORTEDLY TOLD DIET THAT
GOJ HAD REQUESTED RIGHTS TO PEKING, OSAKA AND BEYOND,
WHILE PRC HAD REQUESTED RIGHTS TO TOKYO, OSAKA AND
BEYOND; JAL MIGHT NOT OPERATE OSAKA- SHANGHAI LINE;
WEEKLY FLIGHTS ARE ANTICIPATED AT PRESENT; IT MIGHT
NOT BE POSSIBLE TO TRANSFER ALL INTERNATIONAL
OPERATIONS FROM HANEDA TO NARITA AT TIME OF LATTER' S
OPENING. JCAB DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONFIRMED MUCH OF
VICE MINISTER' S STATEMENT, BUT CONTINUED TO EXPRESS
SERIOUS DOUBTS RE FEASIBILITY OF SPLITTING INTERNATIONAL
OPERATIONS BETWEEN HANEDA AND NARITA (SUBJECT OF CONCERN
EXPRESSED BY NWA REP). FONOFF CONFIRMED THAT PLAN TO
MAINTAIN CAL OPERATIONS AT HANEDA UNDER CONSIDERATION
BUT UNLIKELY TO BE PROPOSED BY GOJ. END SUMMARY.

1. JAPAN- CHINA AVIATION NEGOTIATIONS REMAINED IN THE
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NEWS AS RESULT OF STATEMENTS MADE BY MOT PARLIAMENTARY VICE MINISTER SATO IN RESPONSE TO DIET QUESTIONS JUNE 20. SATO QUOTED AS STATING THAT (A) GOJ HAD REQUESTED RIGHTS TO PEKING AND SHANGHAI AND BEYOND, WHILE PRC HAD REQUESTED TOKYO, OSAKA AND BEYOND; (B) HE DID NOT CONSIDER IT ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY THAT JAL OPERATE OSAKA- SHANGHAI LINE; (C) PRESENT PLANS CALL FOR ONCE WEEKLY FLIGHT BY EACH COUNTRY; (D) IT MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE TO TRANSFER ALL SERVICES FROM HANEDA TO NARITA AT TIME OF OPENING OF LATTER, BUT THAT QUESTION NOT CONNECTED TO JAPAN-CHINA AVIATION ISSUE.

2. PRESS HAS INTERPRETED SATO'S REMARK ABOUT OSAKA-SHANGHAI ROUTE TO INDICATE THAT GOJ WILL ASSIGN THAT ROUTE TO ALL NIPPON AIRWAYS (ANA). IF SO, IT WOULD REPRESENT FIRST SCHEDULED INTERNATIONAL SERVICE FOR ANA, WHOSE INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS NOW CONFINED TO CHARTERS.

3. WHEN QUERIED BY ECON/ COUNS RE SATO'S STATEMENTS, GOTO, DEPUTY DIRECTOR - INTERNATIONAL OF JCAB, MADE FOLLOWING REMARKS:

(A) PRC HAS REQUESTED RIGHTS TO TOKYO AND OSAKA AND GOTO INDICATED THAT GOJ WOULD GRANT THESE RIGHTS. PRC HAS ALSO REQUESTED BEYOND RIGHTS, HOWEVER, WITHOUT INDICATING ITS INTENTIONS RE DESTINATIONS.

(B) HE INDICATED THAT GOJ HAD REQUESTED RIGHTS TO PEKING AND SHANGHAI AND CONFIRMED GOJ REQUEST FOR BEYOND RIGHTS. DESTINATIONS WOULD INCLUDE POINTS IN WESTERN EUROPE, SOUTH ASIA AND SOVIET UNION. GOJ DOES NOT YET KNOW WHETHER PRC WILL PERMIT SUCH OPERATIONS.

(C) QUESTION OF WHICH JAPANESE CARRIER WOULD OPERATE TO PRC IS DELICATE INTERNAL PROBLEM. JAL IS QTE FIRST CANDIDATE UNQTE FOR FLIGHTS TO PRC. NO WORD RE ANA HAS BEEN EXPRESSED BY GOJ TO PRC. (ANA'S DIRECTOR FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS CONFIRMED THAT ANA UNAWARE OF A GOJ DECISION ON ITS DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE IN JAPAN-CHINA FLIGHTS).

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(D) JCAB VERY EMBARRASSED TO HEAR ABOUT PLAN TO MAINTAIN SOME INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS AT HANEDA. GOTO'S PERSONAL VIEW IS THAT IT WOULD BE COMPLETELY IMPOSSIBLE TO WORK OUT DIVISION OF INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS BETWEEN TWO AIRPORTS. (IN THAT CONNECTION, NORTHWEST AIRLINES REP EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN TO ECON/ COUNS THAT GOJ WAS SETTING

STAGE FOR CARRYING OUT PLAN DESCRIBED REFTEL OF MAIN-TAINING QTE REGIONAL OPERATIONS UNQTE AT HANEDA BY SHIFT-ING FROM ARGUMENT THAT CAL AND CAAC MUST BE SEPARATED TO THAT OF IMPOSSIBILITY OF UNDERTAKING MOVE TO NARITA IN ONE STAGE. NORTHWEST WOULD BE DIRECTLY AFFECTED IF CAL AND KOREAN AIRLINES PERMITTED TO OPERATE TOKYO- TAIPEI AND TOKYO- SEOUL SERVICE OUT OF HANEDA.)

4. IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF' S QUESTIONS RE REPORTED PLAN FOR CAL AND CAAC TO USE DIFFERENT TOKYO AIRPORTS, SAITO OF FONOFF CHINA DIVISION STATED THAT FONOFF WAS COMMITTED TO OFFER NEW PROPOSAL TO PRC ON AVIATION ISSUE AND WAS PRESSING MOT TO QTE COME UP WITH SOMETHING UNQTE. HE CONFIRMED THAT PLAN REPORTED REFTEL WAS ONE OF SEVERAL UNDER CONSIDERATION BUT ADDED THAT IT WAS NOT EMERGING AS LIKELY GOJ PROPOSAL TO PRC. DISADVANTAGES TO PLAN, HE SAID, WERE THAT IT WOULD RESULT IN LONG DELAY IN OPENING OF AIR SERVICES (SINCE NARITA OPENING SEEMS ONE YEAR AWAY); DIET APPROVAL WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR CONTINUATION OF CUSTOMS, IMMIGRATION AND QUARANTINE FACILITIES AT HANEDA; AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSULTED.

6. COMMENT: EMBASSY' S IMPRESSION IS THAT SENIOR GOJ OFFICIALS ARE NOW FEELING URGENCY OF MAKING PROMISED PROPOSAL TO PRC TO BREAK DEADLOCKED AVIATION TALKS, BUT AS YET ARE UNABLE TO FIND WORKABLE SOLUTION.
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